

# point 3

■ JULY 2005

The magazine of  **TOC H**

## Inside:

A new experience  
The Chancellor's visit  
Toc H Times award  
Birthday celebrations  
VE street party  
A nice cup of tea  
A royal day out

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**The humming birds of Kerala India stole all hearts at the Toc H 90th birthday celebrations at Coventry Cathedral**



**Toc H history was handed on in the moving ceremony at the Cathedral - see the special supplement on pages 5,6,7 and 8**



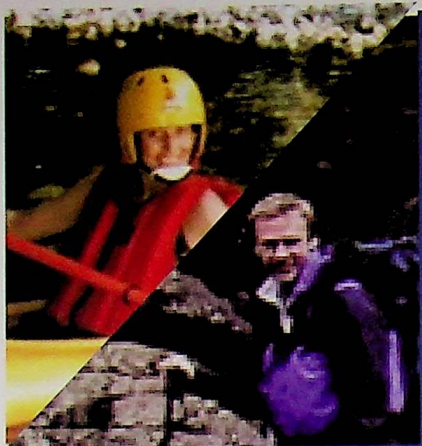
# BOG lays the foundations for a national experience

As part of Toc H's continuing wider development, the Birmingham Outward Group (BOG) – which provides outdoor activity weekends for children in local communities – is providing the model for a Toc H national initiative: **frontlinexperience**.

BOG, founded in 1973, runs approximately 12 weekends each year providing abseiling, mountaineering, horse-riding, caving, canoeing and other activities.

Chief Executive Geoff Smith said: "The aim is to give children a break from their home environments, while providing the chance to try a new outdoor activity, and to interact with others. Each young person is encouraged to take an active part on the weekend to help promote self-confidence and aid personal development."

For many of the children this weekend will be their only holiday, for some it will be their first ever.



BOG volunteers Alison Davies (top) and Phil Moran, demonstrate some of the activities provided at the activity weekends

Many take place in the Lake District at the Toc H Outdoor Activity Centre at Weirside, in the beautiful Langdale Valley.

With the new national approach, it will be possible to increase the number of weekends offered. **frontlinexperience** will build on the work of other Toc H projects offering similar challenging holiday experiences, and using other TalbotCentres such as Rickmansworth and Adlington. Geoff

Smith said: "Too often in Toc H good ideas have remained local to the group or region which first pioneered them – or even more sadly have been floated off as independent organisations. Neither of these are strategies for building an organisation."

Using the BOG model, a full-time co-ordinator will be appointed to develop the programme around a social enterprise framework.

It is intended that future clients of **frontlinexperience** will include education and social service departments in local authorities, the new National Offender Management Service, probation services, and schools, as well as Toc H youth mentoring and family support centres.

Corporate events may be possible but not at the expense of the main target group, who are young people at risk.

The base for **frontlinexperience** will be Alison House, the Toc H Training and Conference Centre in Cromford, near Matlock.

## New deputy director looks to the future

**Toc H is delighted to announce the appointment of Mary Rance as the organisation's new Deputy Chief Executive.**

Mary has spent over 20 years working with various trade associations, and left her position as Confederation of British Industry Director for the London region to join Toc H in June.

Mary said: "I have been looking for the right opportunity to get involved with the voluntary sector, and I am delighted to have found that with Toc H. I hope with my experience, I can bring a different dimension to the organisation."

Mary's role will see her take forward the business plan for 2006 which will be approved by the trustees in July, and presented to the AGM in

September. Mary will have a key role in staff support and negotiating grants for new development within the Participation and InTOUCH programmes.

Mary added: "I'm looking forward to learning more about the organisation, and finding out what's happening on the ground, and how I can help support that activity."



# Gordon checks Croydon's healthy eating



Gordon Brown meets some of the younger visitors to the Healthy Living Centre. Mr Brown is also seen on our front cover with Toc H's Charmaine Odusina

**Toc H was put in the Government's "healthy eating" spotlight as Gordon Brown, Chancellor of the Exchequer, visited the Healthy Living Centre in West Croydon, London.**

He was at the Valley Park housing estate the day after Prime Minister Tony Blair met campaigning TV chef Jamie Oliver and Education Minister Ruth Kelly promised an extra £280 million to improve school meals.

Charmaine Odusina, Toc H Area Manager South, said: "Mr Brown was very interested in the work that we do here, and he made a point of speaking to everyone. He said that he was concerned about healthy eating issues, not just as a politician, but as a dad. We were pleased to be able to demonstrate to the Chancellor just how a local community can come together in addressing these matters and making a real difference to people's lives."

As reported in an earlier edition of Point 3, the whole £930,000 project brings a community centre, surgery, and Sure Start child care to the residents of one of the most isolated and deprived parts of the borough.

It provides a base for a nurse, several health practitioners, community meeting room, crèche, and a place for training using information and communications technology.

Toc H has been working with other agencies – including

Sure Start, the Croydon Primary Care Trust and the Croydon Council – to provide much-needed community facilities for the area as part of a project to promote community cohesion and to reduce anti-social behaviour.

As a result, the project will also be a base for children's services – after school clubs and holiday activities for the benefit of children from two local estates.



Toc H's Charmaine Odusina (left) and the Chancellor meet the media outside the centre

## Never too old to lend a hand

Charmaine Odusina was also at the Toc H East London family project to see the filming of a recent BBC programme 'Heaven and Earth'.

The programme followed Toc H member Chris Stoneham round Limehouse, as he encouraged veterans to push back the years and get involved with volunteering.

Chris took ex-servicemen Laurie Tuckey and Gordon Henty to the project centre, where they chatted with children and helped out in the kitchen.

Project manager of the centre Maggie Gittleson said: "The veterans have been involved with Toc H for many years and their support in a range of projects has been invaluable."

The programme was screened on BBC 1, 29 June.



Charmaine chats to Gordon Henty as the crew set up



## New book gives insight into historic craft

*The Stained Glass Windows of A J Davies (1877-1953) of the Bromsgrove Guild, Worcestershire by Roy Albutt, Published by Roy Albutt 2005, ISBN 0-9543566-1-6*

If you are interested in stained glass, and in particular the work of A J Davies of the Bromsgrove Guild then this is a 'must have' book. In his research for his M.Phil degree, Roy Albutt has produced a detailed and beautifully illustrated account of the life and work of this craftsman who lived and worked for most of his life in Birmingham and Bromsgrove.

### Casket

Of particular interest to Toc H readers is the information about the casket made to house the original Lamp of Maintenance lit by the Prince of Wales which is in All Hallows Church, London. The casket has numerous small glass panels made by A J Davies which commemorate the founding of the earliest branches both here and abroad.

Including the cover there are 50 full page coloured photographs, taken by the author.

This paperback book is available from Roy Albutt, 11 Great Calcroft, Pershore, Worcestershire, WR10 1QS, Tel: 01386 552127, price £16.95 + £1.50 p & p.

This book review was written by Margaret Winstanley, PA to Geoff Smith, Chief Executive of Toc H.

# Happy birthday to us!

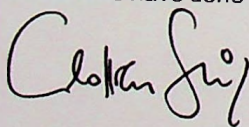
What can I say? Toc H has reached its 90th year and the birthday party was absolutely wonderful!

We had some of our oldest members there - including a lady of 95 who travelled independently from the Isle of Wight - and we were joined by John Bowman from Zimbabwe, and the Hummingbird Choir from the Toc H school at Cochin in Kerala, India, who stole everybody's hearts.

What's more, the service at Coventry Cathedral summed up everything that we have been working towards for so many years: we celebrated the tremendous achievements of the past, and we looked forward with great confidence and optimism toward a future where our dedication will continue the heritage of commitment and passion handed down to us by the generations of Toc H.

It seems to me that the staff of Toc H and its members demonstrate immense dedication and a strength of achievement which does the whole movement great credit. Personally and professionally Toc H is an organisation of which I am immensely proud.

David Conner, the Dean of Windsor and Bishop to the Armed Forces, spoke movingly and with great empathy of our work. His words were so powerful that I thought members of Toc H who were unable to attend the service would like to read a resume of them here. Enjoy your reading - and thank you for everything you have done for Toc H! If we continue that tradition we will have begun to repay our debt to those who have done so much for us.



Geoff Smith, Chief Executive Toc H

**'A time of renewal, vision restored, passion rekindled, faith refreshed'**

**Bishop David Conner said:**

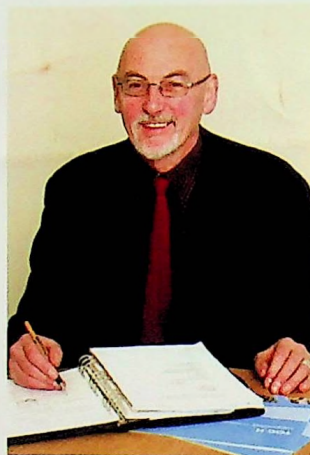
"Talbot House was somewhere which kept the Christian pulse throbbing in the hostile circumstances of the First World War, and where people shared a common dignity. During that war people were confronted by the very worst of humanity, but also caught sight of the very best, and were

inspired to go out and serve others, and to build bridges across which others could walk, to hold out a hand to a brother or sister. What captures my imagination most about the early years of Toc H is the vision of the founders - and the passion they brought to it - that they could make a difference. It made life feel full of possibilities.

"I think that now there is a pervading sense of powerlessness among many people who feel that anything they can do is too small. Today is a call for the members of Toc H to register that what they have to offer is something desperately needed by the world - the passion and conviction that they can make a difference and that the struggle for a better world does bear fruit.

"Toc H has demonstrated that even the smallest seed can bear fruit 100-fold.

"What we are celebrating here in this service is a time of renewal, vision restored, passion rekindled, faith refreshed. A time in which we rediscover true determination to go out in the service of a better world and a better future. I hope and pray that through this service we will hear God's call again."







# Happy Birthday to Toc H!

The Hummingbird Choir from India sang at Coventry Cathedral in a joyous affirmation of all the movement stands for.

Pictures and a report inside this special section.



# What a great

Toc H celebrated its 90th birthday in Coventry Cathedral with songs from a school choir from India, urban dance by a multi-cultural street group from Bradford, and an inspiring sermon by the Bishop to the Armed Forces and Dean of Windsor, the Rt Revd David Conner.

A highlight was the presentation by senior member Lella Raymond of a First World War communion chalice to Toc H Chief Executive Geoff Smith. The small, exquisite, silver vessel was used by her father, Ernest Raymond, in the trenches when he was an Army chaplain and assistant to Toc H founder Tubby Clayton.

The service, attended by approximately 400 ►



'Peace, Imperfect Peace' - the title of the thought-pro seen right with Sir Roger Jackling

► and filmed by the BBC 'Songs of Pra modern and traditional elements and C prayers.

The Hummingbird choir from the Toc H and hymns and the youngsters from th group of Bradford gave a lively perform costumes. Young and senior members explained how they saw the Four Point Toc H bases its mission.

Earlier in the day international conflict Rogers said that Toc H in its own way, the widening gulf in society, would be v

Professor Rogers, the University of Bra conflict resolution, spoke on 'Peace, In members, and prompted a thought-pro audience, himself, and Sir Roger Jackl Toc H, and former Head of the Defence session.

He concluded: "The next 10 years – co birthday of Toc H – are very significant. the wider move for peace and justice."

## Toc H celebrate with song, dance



**The Lord has annointed me... he has sent me to bring good news... to give them a garland instead of ashes... the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.**

Isaiah 61.1-4,8



Enlivening: The dancers of Xplosion! brought a swirl of movement into the service

**I thank thee Lord for knowing me better than I know myself, and for letting me know myself better than I** Abu Bekr, Mohammed's father-in-law: in the Islamic tradition (Quotations on these pages all featured in the Cathedral service).

Toc H offers a space where people can meet and in a spirit of open-heartedness rem



on earth. May the waters flow peacefully. May the herbs and plants grow peacefully. May all the divine

# t party we had!

powers  
bring us  
unto peace.  
The supreme  
Lord is  
peace. May  
we all be at  
peace.  
Peace, and  
only peace;  
and may that  
peace come  
unto each  
of us.

From the  
Vedas,  
in the Hindu  
Tradition.



provoking debate with Professor Paul Rogers,

'praise' programme, combined  
Christian, Islamic and Hindu

H Cochin school sang pop, gospel  
the Xplosion! dance and urban  
performance in bright-coloured  
ers of Toc H gave the readings and  
ints of the Compass on which

ct resolution expert Professor Paul  
, and through its understanding of  
working for peace and justice.

radford expert on international  
'Imperfect Peace' to Toc H  
provoking discussion between the  
ckling, chair of the trustees of  
ce Academy, who introduced the

coincidentally up to the 100th  
nt. Toc H in its own way is part of

## es 90 not out ce and prayer

others know me. Make me, I pray, better than they suppose, and forgive me for what they do not know.

member the sacrifices of past generations and make a new commitment to seek peace.



Discussing: David Conner, Bishop to the  
Armed Forces and Dean of Windsor,  
discusses the situation in Zimbabwe with  
Chief Executive Geoff Smith, centre, and  
John Bowman who travelled from  
Zimbabwe for the service

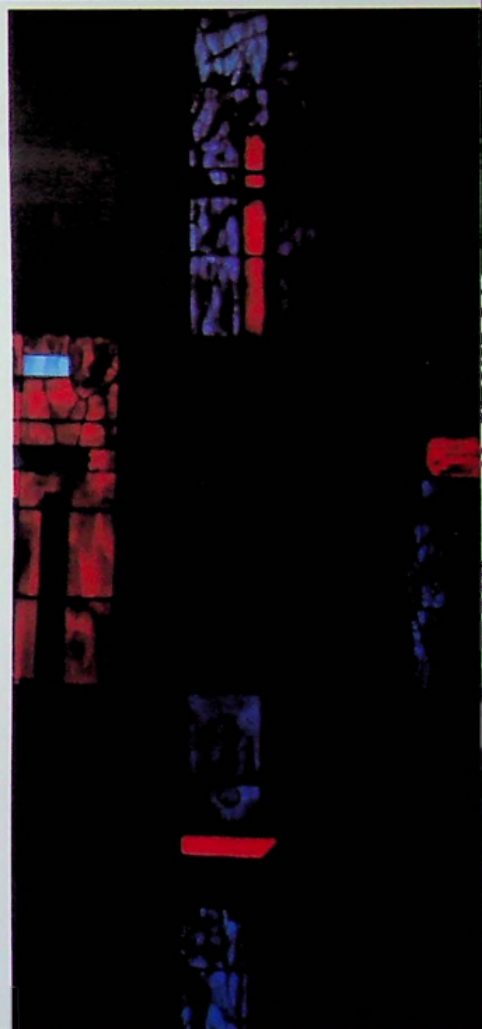


Discussing: Charmaine Walters, left, and  
Charmaine Odusina

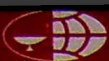
Grateful thanks are due to **Pete Muirhead**, Toc H  
manager for the Cheshire Mentoring Scheme, who took  
the photographs on these pages and in the special  
supplement with the previous issue of Point 3.



Enjoying: Vince Taylor of the 'Thumb-a-Lift' scheme at  
Bewdley, Worcestershire







Lella Raymond, a veteran member of Toc H, donated a very special gift to Chief Executive Geoff Smith - the small travelling communion chalice that her father, Ernest Raymond, had used in the trenches of the Ypres Salient as an Army chaplain when he was an assistant to Toc H founder Tubby Clayton



In full voice: The Hummingbird Choir of Cochin at the Cathedral - they sing in English, Spanish, Hindi and their traditional Malayalam. During their visit to the UK they also sang at Alison House, Bradford's International Festival, Bradford Cathedral Community College, Croydon refugee day centre, and Biddenham Church near Bedford



# Street party salutes the past



Toc H Barkingside men's branch and London district had their hands full on VE day, when they served up over 250 free cups of tea to thirsty passers-by.

Young and old came out in force to join the street party in Ilford town which celebrated the 60th anniversary of Victory in Europe.

Local residents, shoppers and children from schools enjoyed listening to the live music, roaming round the stalls, and singing along to forties favourites.

Members from the Barkingside men's branch and Redbridge Somali Consortium helped to keep spirits high by serving refreshments throughout the day.

World War II veteran Gordon Henty was one Toc H member on hand to help out. He said: "I'm pleased to see that someone has remembered the old soldiers and what it meant to keep Britain free."



## Volunteers needed at new bookshop

Toc H Rhyl is looking for volunteers to work in its new book shop, which opened in June. Development officer Zoe Moran said: "We're desperate for

volunteers to help us sort through donated books, serve fair trade coffee and generally help us run the shop.

Contact Central Services to find out more, money raised will help support the Toc H Hospital Library Service.



Father Bertrand will be the 51st Vicar of All Hallows

## Bienvenue to new Vicar

The Archbishop of Canterbury has confirmed the appointment of the Revd Bertrand Olivier as the new Vicar of All Hallows by the Tower – the church where Toc H founder Tubby Clayton was Vicar for 40 years.

Father Bertrand has been Vicar of St Barnabas Southfields since March 2000, and Area Dean of Wandsworth since 2002. Before that, he was assistant curate

at St John's Walworth, an inner-city parish. He is a dual Franco-British national, and has lived in London for over 16 years.

He comes to All Hallows with previous business experience, having been a managing director of a healthcare PR agency in London. Father Bertrand was formally installed as the 51st Vicar of All Hallows on Monday 4 July.



## Sponsors needed!

This year's Michleob ULTRA London Triathlon will include Chris Winstanley, Michael Frankland and Scott Quaite, swimming, running and cycling to raise money for Toc H. The event takes place on 6-7 August, if anyone would like to sponsor them send your donation to Central Services. For more information on the event see: [www.thelondontriathlon.com](http://www.thelondontriathlon.com)

## New Members

We welcome:

**Louise Heffernan**  
South East

**Mark Whiteside**  
West Midlands

**Muriel Goldborough**  
Ripon & District

**Rev'd Canon Eric Forshaw**  
East Midlands

**Peter Turner**  
Ipswich

**Hilda Willis**  
Parkhurst I of W

**Tony Robbins**  
London District

**David and Diana Piper**  
High Brooms

## Point 3 deadline

Articles and letters from Toc H members are always welcome but the Editor reserves the right to shorten or amend them. We will try to include all material we receive but cannot guarantee publication. The deadline for the next Point 3 is 18 July 2005.

# Madeleine has an exceedingly good idea

**Toc H, in partnership with new member Madeleine Fone, has developed a campaign to reconcile members of different faiths over a hot cup of tea and a slice of cake.**

The 'Tea and Cake' campaign proposes small groups from different faiths meet together for refreshment and conversation, taking the opportunity to explore common humanity and shared values.

Madeleine, an accountant from Bedford, was inspired to develop the campaign through the Christian ideal of 'love your neighbour as yourself'.

She said: "The idea of trying to extend the notion of neighbourliness runs in the family. During my teenage years my father organised cultural exchanges with Germany as his effort at working for reconciliation - he had been awarded the DFC during WW2, but thought that we need to maintain friendships with different peoples to heal divisions and avoid any future conflicts."

"The concept for the 'Tea and Cake' campaign is the same. Sharing as little as ten minutes of time together is a vote for reconciliation."

Madeleine laid the foundations for the project when she held the first meeting between her parish and a group of Muslims from a local

mosque. They met in the church barn to chat informally and share stories. Mohammed Khan from a Bedford mosque said: "The meeting was a good idea and we all enjoyed ourselves. It was not only about individual people meeting, but about one community talking to another community."

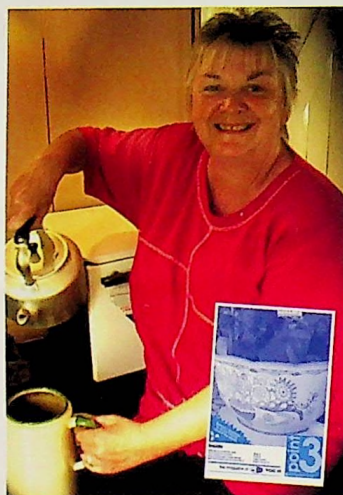
Madeleine added: "We felt the time together to be extremely beneficial, and would like to see the model implemented on a national scale, not only initiated by religious groups but between other community groups as well."

Toc H Chief Executive Geoff Smith said: "Terrorism and conflict grab the headlines which can lead to separatism within society. Ignorance and resentment work to deepen this rift. We need to neutralise these influences and extend the hand of friendship across the cultural and religious divide as evidence of our common desire for reconciliation."

Any groups interested in being involved with this inter-faith initiative, or requiring more information, should

contact Central Services on 01296 642020 or 01296 64001.

The Toc H 'Tea and Cake' campaign will be active between 11 September and 11 November, dates that remind us of the necessity to work for peace.



Flashback: the Power of a cuppa. Irene Power brought people together over cups of tea and coffee for Toc H Stockport's 80th anniversary

**"Sharing ten minutes is a vote for reconciliation"**



# Times award for Crème of the crop

**Congratulations to Margaret Winstanley, PA to the Chief Executive at Toc H, who recently scooped a 'runners-up' award at the Times Crème Executive Secretary and PA Show in London.**

Clare Edmondson, judge and HR Director of award sponsor, DHL UK said: "Margaret is a high-performing PA in a very diverse role. She is a highly competent professional and has proved to be adaptable to many challenging situations. It's clear that Reverend



Margaret (second from left) and the other finalists at the award ceremony

Margaret - who has been PA to the Chief Executive of Toc H for almost 19 years - beat stiff competition from the cream of UK personal assistants and secretaries to be a runner up at the prestigious award.

Toc H Chief Executive Geoff Smith nominated Margaret to show his appreciation for her hard work and dedication to the charity.

Geoff said: "Margaret's knowledge of the organisation coupled with her tact and sensitivity is quite simply invaluable. Margaret is the closely guarded secret of whatever success I have had over the past five years."

The judges were impressed by Margaret's ability to adapt, having worked for three Chief Executives since 1986.

Geoffrey Smith has complete trust in Margaret and that they have developed an excellent working relationship."

The awards were given out during a fashion show by Hobbs, after which the finalists were whisked off for a champagne lunch at a Notting Hill restaurant.

Commenting on her award, Margaret said: "Working with Geoff and everyone else at Toc H is demanding but rewarding at the same time. I think everyone likes to know that their contributions are appreciated and this award does exactly that by recognising all the hard work that is put in behind the scenes."

Margaret will be enjoying her prize, an all expenses paid trip to Rome, later this year.

## Join the water walk

The Seventh Toc H London Walk will take place on Saturday September 3. Entitled 'The London Watercourse' it will take in 20 sites that will have a connection to water, rivers or the sea.

Watch this space for more details.

## New broker contacts

New contacts for Toc H insurance brokers (Giles Insurance Brokers) are:

Anthony Waute,  
tel 0208 774 0540  
or  
Eddie Ferrao,  
tel 0208 774 0534

Should you have any queries about cover, please do not hesitate to contact them (or Central Services).

## Obituaries

**May Beddow**  
Heart of England

**Joan Aubrey**  
Gloucester

**Frances Hingley**  
Wolverhampton

**Betty Thatcher**  
South East

**Joseph Sulley**  
Heart of England

**Pamela Baker**  
South East

**Dorothy Kirk**  
Long Eaton

**Peggy Wilkinson**  
Lincolnshire

**Kathleen Kench**  
Coupar Angus

**Basil Mucklow**  
Gloucester

**Nella Sykes**  
Gloucester

**Fenwick L Thompson**  
Oatlands

**Due to space restraints Point 3 has a policy of carrying short announcements rather than full obituaries.**



# Veterans ready for a Royal day out

The Government's World War II 60th Anniversary Commemoration on July 10 will see ex-service men and women from all over the country congregating in London for a number of exciting events.

Veterans have been invited to attend a royal lunch in the gardens of Buckingham Palace, a service at Westminster Abbey and a number of activities in Horse Guards Parade.

Several Toc H members have been invited to the events, including Marjorie Marsh and Desmond Bonner, who will attend a commemorative service at Westminster Abbey. The service will be conducted before a gathering of veterans, representatives of all major faiths and senior dignitaries.

A limited number of VIPs and veterans will be invited into a privately sponsored royal lunch in the gardens of Buckingham Palace. A military band will provide the music, and a live television link up will keep visitors informed of the events on Horse Guards Parade.

Ex-veteran of the Indian army and Toc H member since 1929, Mr Gerard Ashfield said he was looking forward to the lunch. He said: "It will of course, be a nice day out, but to those who fought in the War, it will be so much more than that."

85-year-old William Robinson is one Toc H member who will be attending the main Commemoration event at



Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey and Horse Guards Parade will welcome veterans in July

Horse Guards Parade. This will be a series of nostalgic, reflective and commemorative events in front of an expected audience of around 10,000 veterans, relatives and VIPs.

Guests will join the Royal Family watching a parade, and a flypast of aircraft over Buckingham Palace.

William said: "I'm really looking forward to the day – it might even be a chance to meet up with some of my old shipmates!" Visitors to Horse Guards Parade should also look out for Ken Cockerton, who will join the parade to display his Toc H banner.

## Project pictures a bright future

Ex-photographer Peter Muirhead – now project manager of the Cheshire mentoring scheme – has been helping Toc H record its 90th birthday by taking pictures of the historic celebrations.

The photographs, which can be seen on pages 6 and 7 of this issue, are in addition to stunning images Peter has taken of the battlefields of Belgium.

Peter spent 12 years at Cheshire social services working with young people who had behavioural and emotional problems. He also spent time as a freelance photographer in areas including sports, social and



Peter (front row, second from left) and friends at the Alpha drop in

landscape photography.

He said: "I use photography as a vehicle to enable young people to tackle problems and consider

alternatives when in difficult situations. Photography is not only art, but a creative way to 'see' what is not so obvious."

The Cheshire mentoring project seeks to provide volunteer mentors for vulnerable young people in Cheshire aged between 13 – 21, and to include those in and leaving the care system, youth justice system and rurally and socially isolated.

The team are also looking to develop a venue in Winsford to provide a drop-in centre after one in Helsby proved a massive success.